

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /117 W

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1030

CSAF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USAFE KAISERSLAUTERN

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3638

E.O. 11652: GDS, 7-31-79

TAGS: MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (AEW) PROGRAM

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E. CSAF FOR AFRDQ & AFRDP. CNO FOR OP-098 &
OP-982E. JCS FOR J-5. USAF FOR XPX & DOQ.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. USNATO RECOMMENDS BOTH AWACS (AIRBORNE WARNING & CONTROL SYSTEM) AND E-2C AIRCRAFT BE OFFERED AS US PROPOSALS FOR NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AND PROBABILITY OF ACCEPTANCE OF ONE OR THE OTHER. ACTION ITEMS: REQUEST AWACS AND E-2C BRIEFINGS IN THE FORM OF US PROPOSALS BE PRESENTED TO OCT MEETING OF NAFAG (NATO AIR FORCE ARMAMENTS GROUP) SUBGROUP 12 ON DETECTION & TRACKING OF LOW-LEVEL TARGETS. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON US POLICY TOWARD NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECOND MEETING OF NAFAG SUBGROUP 12 ON THE DETECTION & TRACKING OF LOW-LEVEL TARGETS WAS HELD ON CONFIDENTIAL

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24-25 JULY AT NATO HQS. THE GROUP'S MAIN TASK IS TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAM(S). MANY NATIONAL POSITIONS ON A NATO AEW PROGRAM WERE INTERIM OR NOT AVAILABLE; HOWEVER, SEVERAL PRELIMINARY

OBSERVATIONS/OPINIONS ON THE NATIONAL ATTITUDES ARE OFFERED.

A. ONLY THE US AND UK (AND POSSIBLY FRANCE) HAVE NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AEW WHICH THEY ARE PREPARED TO FUND AND PURSUE NATIONALLY IF NO NATO COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS ARE ESTABLISHED. THE UK WILL PROBABLY RESTRICT ITS AEW PROGRAM TO AN OVERWATER CAPABILITY IF THEY HAVE TO GO IT ALONE.

B. MANY NATIONS INDICATED THEY WOULD PROBABLY PARTICIPATE IN A NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAM WITH THE DEGREE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION DEPENDING ON COSTS AND THEIR SHARE OF THE R&D AND/OR PRODUCTION. MOST NATIONS WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST OF A NATO AEW PROGRAM AND MANY FELT SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE MANAGED AND FUNDED, AT LEAST IN PART, BY SOME FORM OF MODIFIED NATO INFRASTRUCTURE ARRANGEMENT (SUCH AS WAS ESTABLISHED FOR NADGE) RATHER THAN ON A STRICT NATO MULTILATERAL BASIS UNDER NATO DOCUMENT C-M(66)33(2D REV.). THUS FAR THERE IS NO CONSENSUS ON AN OPERATIONAL CONCEPT OR WHETHER A NATO AEW PROGRAM SHOULD BUY OFF-THE-SHELF OR NEARLY-DEVELOPED AEW HARDWARE, OR START AN ENTIRELY NEW COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SYSTEM.

C. THE SUBGROUP APPEARS TO BE FLOUNDERING WITHOUT ANY REAL SENSE OF DIRECTION, AND IS PRIMARILY MARKING TIME AWAITING BRIEFINGS ON NATIONAL SYSTEMS/STUDIES. A STRONG LEAD NOW BY THE US COULD FURTHER OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

2. AT THE NEXT MEETING (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 10-12 OCT 73 IN PARIS) THE FRENCH WILL PRESENT THE RESULTS OF FRENCH AEW STUDIES AND SHOW SOME HARDWARE (NO DETAILS AVAILABLE). THE UK WILL PRESENT THE RESULTS OF UK AEW STUDIES; THEY ARE EXPECTED TO LIST THREE OR FOUR ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS WITH VARYING CAPABILITIES AND PRICE TAGS, ONE OF WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE THE GE APS-120 (E-2C) RADAR IN A UK AIRFRAME. THE US WILL PRESENT A DETAILED BRIEFING ON AWACS. THUS FAR, THE NAVY HAS DECLINED TO PRESENT AN UPDATE OF AN E-2C BRIEFING PRESENTED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO THE TSGAD (TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON AIR DEFENSE) IN DEC 72.

3. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL CLIMATE WITHIN NATO COUNTRIES, USNATO FEELS IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO LIMIT THE US ALTERNATIVES OR ENTRIES AT THIS TIME. IF THE US SELECTS AWACS TO PROMOTE, AND IT IS DECIDED THAT AWACS IS TOO EXPENSIVE OR HAS EXCESS CAPABILITY COMPARED TO NATO REQUIREMENTS, THEN THE UK AND POSSIBLY FRANCE WOULD BE IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION TO SELL A MORE MODEST AEW SYSTEM. CONVERSELY, IF THE US LIMITS ITS PROPOSAL TO THE E-2C AND IT IS DECIDED THE E-2C WOULD NOT MEET NATO REQUIREMENTS, THEN THE NATO PROGRAM MIGHT BE PRESSURED TOWARD COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SYSTEM. ALSO, THE POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS THAT A NATO AEW PROGRAM COULD END UP WITH

A MIX OF SYSTEMS WITH OVERLAND AND OVERWATER CAPABILITIES.

4. RECOMMEND THE US PROPOSE BOTH THE AWACS AND E-2C AS NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAMS. RECOMMEND AS MANY OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES AS POSSIBLE FOR EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN R&D, PRODUCTION, AND O&M (OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE), OR OTHER TYPE OF ECONOMIC COMPEBSATION BE DEVELOPED, AS ACCEPTANCE OF US PROPOSALS MAY WELL DEPEND ON DEGREE OF EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION. US ATTITUDE SHOULD BE THAT A GOOD PERCENTAGE OF A LARGE PROGRAM IS BETTER THAN 100 PERCENT OF NOTHING. REQUEST NAVY AND AIR FORCE BE DIRECTED TO PRESENT BRIEFINGS ON E-2C AND AWACS TO OCT MEETING OF SUB-GROUP 12 STRUCTURED IN THE FORM OF US PROPOSALS FOR NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NATO PROJECT GROUPS. PRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE COORDINATED AT OSD LEVEL FOR POLICY, COMMON STRUCTURE AND APPROACH, AND SHOULD COVER THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A. COMPARISON OF AEW SYSTEM CAPABILITIES WITH THE AEW SYSTEM PARAMETERS (REQUIREMENTS) PRESENTED IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON AIR DEFENSE, WORKING GROUP II (NATO DOCUMENT AC/280-D/36(REV), DTD 13 OCT 72).

B. INTEGRATION OF AEW SYSTEM WITH OTHER NATO/NATIONAL AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS AND GROUND ENVIRONMENT (NADGE, UKADGE, STRIDA II, AND NAVY SYSTEMS).

C. PARTICIPATION OF OTHER NATO NATIONS IN R&D, PRODUCTION
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AND O&M.

D. COST DATA FOR R&D AND PRODUCTION, COST AND MANPOWER DATA FOR O&M.

E. US RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN AEW SYSTEM OPERATIONAL CONCEPT.

5. REQUEST ALL POSSIBLE GUIDANCE ON US POLICY TOWARD NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAM. EXAMPLE AREAS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

A. DOES US ENVISION ONE OR TWO LARGE COUNTRIES OPERATING NATO AEW SYSTEM WITH ALL COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING PRO-RATA SHARE TOWARD ACQUISITION AND O&M, OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT?

B. WOULD US PASS ON SOME SUNK R&D COSTS TO NATO AEW BUY, OR QUOTE FLY-AWAY COSTS WITHOUT R&D AMORTIZED?

C. WHAT IS US POSITION WITH REGARD TO TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE IF NATO COOPERATIVE AEW PROGRAM WAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AEW SYSTEM?

D. OTHER PERTINENT GUIDANCE, TO INCLUDE DOD ASSURANCE
(PROBABILITY ESTIMATE) THAT US WILL ACTUALLY CARRY EITHER OR
BOTH PROGRAMS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. MISSION NOTES
THAT THE US STILL SUFFERS FROM THE MALLARD PROJECT
CANCELLATION AND RESULTANT BACKFIRE WITHIN NATO.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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